

**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

This Portfolio is designed for institutional investors seeking superior absolute returns (in excess of inflation) over the long term with a higher risk tolerance in the short term than the Balanced Portfolio. The benchmark is the mean performance of the large managers as surveyed by consulting actuaries.

**Product profile**

- Actively managed pooled portfolio.
- Investments selected from all local asset classes.
- Fully reflects the manager’s strong investment convictions and could deviate considerably in both asset allocation and stock selection from the average retirement portfolio.

**Investment specifics**

- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds and medical schemes.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- Performance based fee.

**Compliance with Prudential Investment Guidelines**

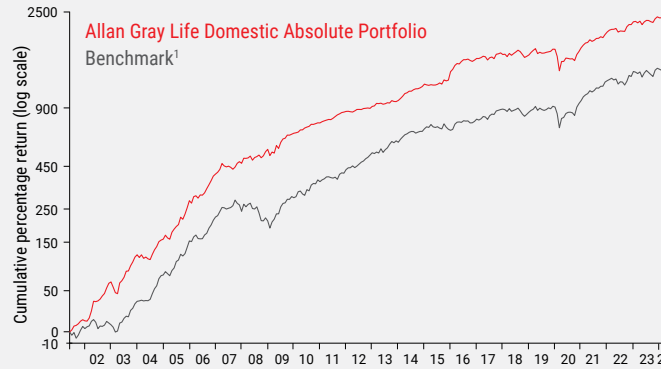
The Portfolio is managed to comply with Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act (“the Pension Funds Act”). Exposures in excess of the limits will be corrected immediately, except where due to a change in the fair value or characteristic of an asset, e.g. market value fluctuations, in which case they will be corrected within the prescribed regulatory time period. Allan Gray Life Limited does not monitor compliance with section 19(4) of the Pension Funds Act (item 6 of Table 1 to Regulation 28) on behalf of retirement funds invested in the pool.

**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R333m
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**Performance gross of fees**

Cumulative performance since inception



- Mean of Alexander Forbes Domestic Large Manager Watch. The return for April 2024 is an estimate.
- Investment returns are annualised (unless stated otherwise), except for periods less than one year. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 April 2024.

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

% Returns <sup>2</sup>	Portfolio	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>
Since inception	15.1	12.5
Latest 10 years	8.2	7.1
Latest 5 years	6.8	8.4
Latest 3 years	9.3	9.5
Latest 2 years	6.9	6.8
Latest 1 year	5.3	5.3
Latest 3 months	1.7	2.4

**Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2024 (updated quarterly)**

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	6.8
AB InBev	6.3
MultiChoice	4.8
Woolworths	4.5
Standard Bank	4.2
Prosus	3.9
Glencore	3.6
Nedbank	2.4
Tiger Brands	2.2
Remgro	2.2
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>41.0</b>

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024**

Asset class	Total
Net equities	52.6
Hedged equities	9.2
Property	0.2
Commodity-linked	3.8
Bonds	19.5
Money market and cash	14.7
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index trended lower over the quarter, with several shares falling on the release of their financial results. The operating environment for local businesses is very tough. The FTSE/JSE All Bond Index also drifted lower as yields moved up. Against this backdrop, the Portfolio returned -0.1% for the quarter. In contrast, global equities have been strong, with the MSCI World Index surpassing its previous 2022 all-time high. Much of this strength was driven by US mega-caps, but the Japanese and certain European stock markets also reached new highs.

2024 could be described as the global year of elections. Based on research conducted by Deutsche Bank, 2024 will see the highest percentage of the world's population voting since 1800. Some of the regions heading to the polls include Taiwan, Europe, the United States of America, India, the United Kingdom and, of course, South Africa. In the normal course of thinking about investments, we do not pay special attention to politics – but this is not a normal election cycle; the outcomes could drastically change many policies that affect some of our underlying holdings. In our view, 2024 has above-average political risk.

The various elections are taking place against the backdrop of a world increasingly divided along both geopolitical and social lines. This is a trend we have been speaking to our clients about for a few years, and one that is making the operating environment increasingly complex for many multinational companies. Think of the partial ban of iPhones for certain public sector workers in China or the shipping attacks in the Red Sea affecting global shipping routes. While we have no unique insights on these geopolitical matters, we do think about these risks when constructing the Portfolio. For example, we have written many times about the significant exposure that the South African equity market has to China. We put limits on this exposure for these reasons.

Closer to home, we may see quite a different political and economic landscape after the South African national elections in May. No one knows what the outcome will be with any certainty, given several potential scenarios. Clearly, not all of them are positive. We had not even heard of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MK Party) a few months ago. Rather than hedging our bets on one or two scenarios prevailing, we try to understand what is discounted in current asset prices.

This is of particular importance to the valuations of many depressed locally focused shares. The political and economic uncertainty in South Africa has pushed up the cost of capital via higher long-bond yields. When this is combined with low or non-existent real growth, the result is a low valuation placed on local profits. Of course, any positive change in yields or growth could result in an upward rerating from depressed levels. We believe that this scenario would require a return of foreign investors, first to our bond and then our equity markets. For that to happen, we need to become an attractive investment destination again. Large pools of foreign capital have many choices globally, and South Africa is small enough to ignore if the risk-reward ratio is not favourable.

With these risks and opportunities in mind, we have deliberately constructed a diversified portfolio for a wide range of outcomes. The Portfolio has exposure to locally listed shares that are international businesses, attractively valued domestic businesses, high-yielding cash and bonds, as well as precious metals. We believe successful asset allocation requires a holistic view of the portfolio that allows us to balance the opportunities and risks derived from our positioning.

During the quarter, the Portfolio purchased Standard Bank and reduced exposure to AB InBev.

Commentary contributed by Duncan Artus

**Fund manager quarterly  
commentary as at  
31 March 2024**

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Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

### FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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### MSCI Index

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**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

This Portfolio is for institutional investors with an average risk tolerance. It aims to offer long-term returns superior to the benchmark, but at lower risk of capital loss. In terms of Allan Gray's risk-profiled range, this Portfolio has a higher risk of capital loss than the Stable Portfolio, but less than the Absolute Portfolio. The benchmark is the mean performance of the large managers as surveyed by consulting actuaries.

**Product profile**

- Actively managed pooled portfolio.
- Investments selected from all local asset classes.
- Represents Allan Gray's 'houseview' for a domestic balanced mandate.

**Investment specifics**

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**Compliance with Prudential Investment Guidelines**

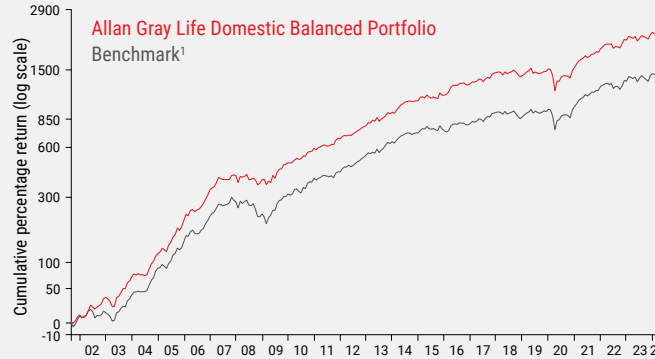
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**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R9 226m
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**Performance gross of fees**

Cumulative performance since inception



% Returns <sup>2</sup>	Portfolio	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>
Since inception	14.9	12.7
Latest 10 years	8.2	7.1
Latest 5 years	8.1	8.4
Latest 3 years	10.0	9.5
Latest 2 years	6.8	6.8
Latest 1 year	4.9	5.3
Latest 3 months	1.7	2.4

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024**

Asset class	Total
Net equities	63.8
Hedged equities	1.4
Property	0.8
Commodity-linked	2.9
Bonds	21.9
Money market and cash	9.2
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- Mean of Alexander Forbes Domestic Large Manager Watch. The return for April 2024 is an estimate.
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Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

**Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2024 (updated quarterly)**

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	5.8
AB InBev	5.1
Naspers & Prosus	5.0
Glencore	3.5
Standard Bank	3.1
Mondi	2.9
Nedbank	2.7
Woolworths	2.6
FirstRand	2.0
MultiChoice	1.9
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>34.6</b>

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index trended lower over the quarter, with several shares falling on the release of their financial results. The operating environment for local businesses is very tough. The FTSE/JSE All Bond Index also drifted lower as yields moved up. Against this backdrop, the Portfolio returned -1.6% for the quarter. In contrast, global equities have been strong, with the MSCI World Index surpassing its previous 2022 all-time high. Much of this strength was driven by US mega-caps, but the Japanese and certain European stock markets also reached new highs.

2024 could be described as the global year of elections. Based on research conducted by Deutsche Bank, 2024 will see the highest percentage of the world's population voting since 1800. Some of the regions heading to the polls include Taiwan, Europe, the United States of America, India, the United Kingdom and, of course, South Africa. In the normal course of thinking about investments, we do not pay special attention to politics – but this is not a normal election cycle; the outcomes could drastically change many policies that affect some of our underlying holdings. In our view, 2024 has above-average political risk.

The various elections are taking place against the backdrop of a world increasingly divided along both geopolitical and social lines. This is a trend we have been speaking to our clients about for a few years, and one that is making the operating environment increasingly complex for many multinational companies. Think of the partial ban of iPhones for certain public sector workers in China or the shipping attacks in the Red Sea affecting global shipping routes. While we have no unique insights on these geopolitical matters, we do think about these risks when constructing the Portfolio. For example, we have written many times about the significant exposure that the South African equity market has to China. We put limits on this exposure for these reasons.

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With these risks and opportunities in mind, we have deliberately constructed a diversified portfolio for a wide range of outcomes. The Portfolio has exposure to locally listed shares that are international businesses, attractively valued domestic businesses, high-yielding cash and bonds, as well as precious metals. We believe successful asset allocation requires a holistic view of the portfolio that allows us to balance the opportunities and risks derived from our positioning.

During the quarter, the Portfolio purchased Prosus and South32 and reduced exposure to AB InBev and AVI.

Commentary contributed by Duncan Artus

**Fund manager quarterly  
commentary as at  
31 March 2024**

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### FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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### MSCI Index

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**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

This Portfolio is for institutional investors requiring management of a specific equity portfolio. It aims to offer superior returns to that of the FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index including dividends, but with a lower risk of capital loss. The benchmark is the FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index including dividends.

**Product profile**

- Actively managed pooled portfolio.
- Represents Allan Gray's 'houseview' for a specialist equity-only mandate.
- Portfolio risk is controlled by limiting the exposure to individual counters.

**Investment specifics**

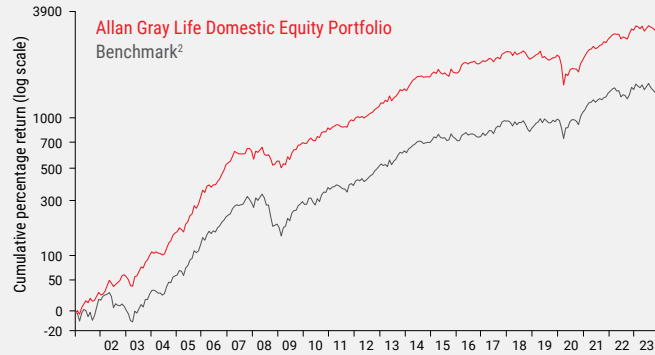
- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds and medical schemes.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- Performance based fee.

**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R3 681m
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**Performance gross of fees**

Cumulative performance since inception<sup>1</sup>



% Returns <sup>3</sup>	Portfolio	Benchmark <sup>2</sup>
Since inception <sup>1</sup>	16.7	13.1
Latest 10 years	7.4	8.0
Latest 5 years	7.3	9.3
Latest 3 years	11.4	8.2
Latest 2 years	7.3	5.1
Latest 1 year	4.3	2.4
Latest 3 months	2.3	3.5

**Sector allocation on 31 March 2024 (updated quarterly)**

	% of equities <sup>4</sup>	% of benchmark <sup>2</sup>
Financials	25.5	27.4
Basic materials	22.3	22.4
Consumer staples	21.2	12.3
Consumer discretionary	9.8	7.6
Technology	7.8	13.7
Industrials	7.0	3.8
Telecommunications	3.1	4.8
Healthcare	1.5	2.3
Real estate	1.1	4.7
Energy	0.6	1.0
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- Since alignment date (1 February 2001).
- FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index. The benchmark prior to 1 October 2020 was the FTSE/JSE All Share Index.
- Investment returns are annualised (unless stated otherwise), except for periods less than one year. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 April 2024.
- Includes listed property.

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

**Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2024 (updated quarterly)**

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	8.2
Naspers & Prosus	7.6
AB InBev	7.3
Glencore	5.1
Mondi	4.7
Standard Bank	4.6
Nedbank	3.9
Woolworths	3.8
FirstRand	3.0
Sappi	2.8
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>50.8</b>

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024**

Asset class	Total
Net equities	96.3
Hedged equities	-
Property	1.1
Commodity-linked	1.1
Bonds	0.1
Money market and cash	1.5
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>

In 2023, the FTSE/JSE All Share Index (ALSI) returned 9.3% in rands, while the FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX All Share Index (Capped SWIX) returned 7.9%. Although positive, one could have achieved a similar return from cash while taking on considerably less risk. To make matters worse, in the first three months of the year, markets have given roughly a quarter of this back, with the ALSI down 2.2% and the Capped SWIX down 2.3%. In this environment, the Portfolio returned -2.4% for the quarter.

There have been few places to hide, with 26 out of the top 40 stocks down in nominal terms over the quarter, including dividends.

It has not just been a lost quarter or year; the JSE has been a poor place to invest for more than a decade. For a global investor, for every R100 you had to invest in the ALSI at the end of December 2010, you would have approximately R360 today, including all dividends reinvested. In US dollars, a US\$100 investment would only be worth about US\$126 at the end of March 2024, given that the rand has weakened from R6.62/US\$ to R18.88/US\$ over this time. Excluding dividends, in nominal terms, the value of that investment would be down in US dollars. In contrast, a US\$100 investment in the USA's major index, the S&P 500, in December 2010 would be worth roughly US\$539 at the end of March 2024 – more than four times the return experienced on the ALSI.

Looking in the rearview mirror and taking South Africa's current political and economic landscape into consideration, it is easy to be despondent about the JSE's return prospects. This crude analysis, however, is not the full picture and masks some important facts:

- The JSE has not been the only bad stock market to invest in over the past decade. Most emerging markets have fared poorly, and the JSE has performed largely in line with its peers. US\$100 invested in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index would be worth approximately US\$131 at the end of March 2024. Indeed, the past 13-plus years have been more a story of exceptional relative returns from US companies than anything else. The S&P 500's returns have been roughly threefold greater than those of the UK's FTSE All Share Index over this same period.
- Starting prices matter. At the end of December 2010, the ALSI was trading on 17.2 times earnings, while the S&P 500 traded on 14.7 times earnings. At the end of March 2024, the ALSI had derated to 13.1 times earnings, while the S&P 500 had derated to 21.6 times earnings. Underlying earnings growth has been superior in the USA, but this change in sentiment has had a big impact on returns over time. The ALSI has gone from trading at a premium to trading at a material discount to the S&P 500.

- There is an increasingly large number of multinational companies that happen to be listed on the JSE but derive more than 80% of their revenue and income from markets outside South Africa. They may be listed in South Africa, but their fortunes are not tied to the domestic economy. This is the case for British American Tobacco, Naspers and Prosus, AB InBev, Glencore and Mondi, all of which are top 10 Portfolio positions.

While we cannot predict what returns one can expect over the next 13-plus years, we can focus on the factors within our control: buying out-of-favour companies at below fair value. In our opinion, the shares listed on the JSE are much cheaper today than they were a decade ago, and we can find a number of attractive opportunities. The opposite is true of many American listed companies.

By way of example, our Portfolio has two material positions in the global paper and packaging industry: Mondi and Sappi. In 2023, Mondi's earnings fell by roughly 45% as prices and volumes in corrugated packaging and uncoated fine paper came under considerable cyclical pressure. In our opinion, earnings are depressed and current industry pricing is unsustainable. In addition, Mondi has a number of organic projects under development that should see growth in volumes and an improvement in costs. Using what we believe to be conservative normal pricing assumptions, Mondi trades on less than nine times our estimate of normal earnings.

Sappi is a lower quality company than Mondi but also considerably cheaper. At the end of September 2018, the share price was R88.75. At the end of the quarter, some five and a half years later, it was 43% lower at R50.29 per share. Over this period, Sappi's earnings have been cyclical, but it has grown free cash flow and reduced net debt by roughly a third. Similar to Mondi, we think earnings are depressed at current levels and are likely to rise in the future. However, even if earnings do not recover, Sappi is cheap. It trades at less than seven times consensus earnings for 2024.

During the quarter, the Portfolio added to its positions in Prosus and South32 and reduced its holdings in AB InBev and AVI.

Commentary contributed by Rory Kutisker-Jacobson

**Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 March 2024**



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### FTSE Russell Index

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### Portfolio objective and benchmark

This Portfolio is specifically for Medical Schemes. It aims to offer superior returns to money market investments with limited capital volatility whilst striving for capital preservation over any two-year period. In terms of Allan Gray's risk-profiled range, this portfolio has less risk of capital loss than the Balanced Portfolio. The Portfolio is managed to comply with the limits of Annexure B to Regulation 30 of the Medical Schemes Act, 1998. The benchmark is the Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2% or CPI plus 3%.

### Product profile

- Conservatively managed pooled portfolio.
- Investments selected from all asset classes as permitted by Regulation 30.
- We attempt to limit the risk of capital loss by holding shares with limited downside or attractive dividend yields and/or hedging stock market exposure.
- Modified duration of the fixed interest component will be conservative.

### Investment specifics

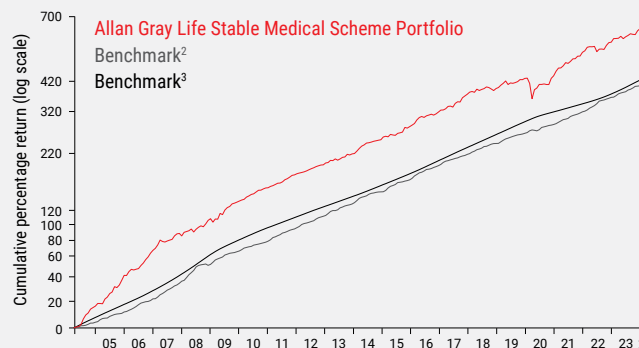
- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to medical schemes.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- Performance based fee/Fixed fee.

### Portfolio information on 30 April 2024

Assets under management	R3 052m
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### Performance gross of fees

Cumulative performance since inception<sup>1</sup>



% Returns <sup>4</sup>	Portfolio	Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>
Since inception <sup>1</sup>	10.7	8.7	8.9
Latest 10 years	8.4	8.2	8.2
Latest 5 years	7.7	8.2	7.7
Latest 3 years	9.5	9.2	7.9
Latest 2 years	7.4	9.3	9.1
Latest 1 year	7.6	8.8	10.2
Latest 3 months	1.9	3.3	2.4

### Asset allocation on 30 April 2024

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign <sup>5</sup>
Net equities	19.6	19.6	-
Hedged equities	6.7	6.7	-
Property	0.8	0.8	-
Commodity-linked	1.9	1.9	-
Bonds	47.3	34.9	12.4
Money market and cash	23.7	21.1	2.6
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>

- Since alignment date (1 May 2004).
- CPI plus 3% p.a. The return for April 2024 is an estimate.
- Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2% p.a.
- Investment returns are annualised (unless stated otherwise), except for periods less than one year. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 April 2024.
- The Africa ex-SA and foreign ex-Africa exposures have been consolidated.

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

### Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2024 (updated quarterly)

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	3.0
AB InBev	2.3
MultiChoice	1.7
AngloGold Ashanti	1.6
Sappi	1.5
Woolworths	1.3
Standard Bank	1.2
Nedbank	1.2
Gold Fields	1.2
Sasol	1.1
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>16.2</b>

The optimism that greeted our local market in the latter part of 2023 has not extended into the current year. The FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX declined by 2.3% in the first quarter. The weak performance of our market, particularly when measured in US dollars, is in stark contrast to other global equity indices which have continued to post fresh all-time highs on the back of expected looser monetary policy and a continuing rally in AI-related stocks. A lacklustre commodity price environment, low economic growth and market participants keeping an eye on the upcoming national elections are all contributing to generally poor sentiment towards South African equities.

In comparison, global bonds have struggled to gain traction with investors becoming increasingly cautious on the quantum of interest rate cuts anticipated over the next year. US growth prospects remain strong and global inflation remains higher than targeted levels, particularly in the more labour-intensive services economy. The FTSE World Government Bond Index returned -2.4%, while the local FTSE/JSE All Bond Index posted a 4.1% decline in US dollars (-1.8% in rands) over the quarter.

Against this challenging backdrop for risk assets, the Portfolio's return for the first quarter was 1.7%, behind the benchmark<sup>1</sup> return of 2.5%. The Portfolio's fixed income component was the main contributor to performance, while local equity selection also added to returns.

At the end of this quarter, the Portfolio's allocation to local cash and bonds is 57.0% of assets, with the split across instruments made with the objective of generating an acceptable overall real return (i.e. after adjusting for inflation), under a variety of possible scenarios. This comprises low-risk money market instruments yielding 9%, higher nominal South African government bonds

at more than 12% and inflation linkers at 4.5% to 6.0% real rates. In sum, this combination should provide a decent return without taking on excessive credit and interest rate risk, which is attractive relative to local inflation at 5.6%. In addition to local fixed income, the Portfolio holds offshore US dollar-denominated low-duration bonds at yields of 5% and higher.

A net equity weight of 18.7% reflects a more cautious stance when viewed against the 40% maximum allowable allocation. We are wary of parts of the market that appear expensive and what that may entail for absolute equity returns if stark valuation discrepancies begin to unwind. We seek to exploit this potential opportunity with our allocation to hedged equities, which should provide a return profile more akin to cash plus the alpha generated via our bottom-up stockpicking process.

It is worth reiterating the Portfolio's dual objective of providing long-term returns ahead of cash together with offering a high degree of capital stability. Current high cash rates do present a steep performance hurdle. It is important that the appropriate balance is struck between the risk and return required in meeting and surpassing this hurdle, especially in an environment of uncertainty both locally and offshore.

This quarter, the Portfolio added to positions in gold miners, including AngloGold Ashanti and DRDGOLD. We trimmed the Portfolio's exposure to Standard Bank and Nedbank.

**Commentary contributed by Sean Munsie**

**Fund manager quarterly  
commentary as at  
31 March 2024**

1. Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2% p.a.

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### Portfolio objective and benchmark

This Portfolio is for risk-averse institutional investors. It aims to offer superior returns to money market investments with limited capital volatility whilst striving for capital preservation over any two-year period. In terms of Allan Gray's risk-profiled range, this portfolio has less risk of capital loss than the Balanced Portfolio. The benchmark is the Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2% or CPI plus 3%.

### Product profile

- Conservatively managed pooled portfolio.
- Investments selected from all local asset classes.
- We attempt to limit the risk of capital loss by holding shares with limited downside or attractive dividend yields and/or hedging stock market exposure.
- Modified duration of the fixed interest component will be conservative.

### Investment specifics

- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds and medical schemes.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- Performance based fee or fixed fee.

### Compliance with Prudential Investment Guidelines

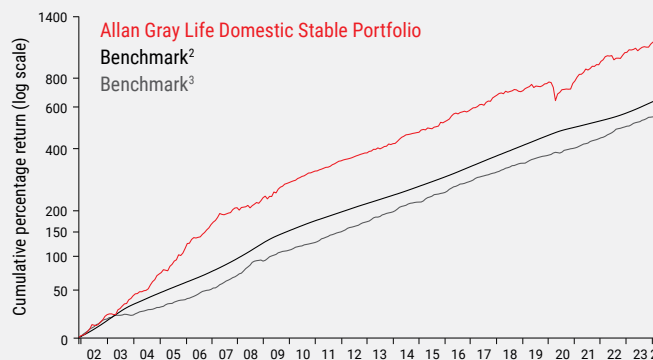
The Portfolio is managed to comply with Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act ("the Pension Funds Act"). Exposures in excess of the limits will be corrected immediately, except where due to a change in the fair value or characteristic of an asset, e.g. market value fluctuations, in which case they will be corrected within the prescribed regulatory time period. Allan Gray Life Limited does not monitor compliance with section 19(4) of the Pension Funds Act (item 6 of Table 1 to Regulation 28) on behalf of retirement funds invested in the pool.

### Portfolio information on 30 April 2024

Assets under management	R1 440m
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### Performance gross of fees

Cumulative performance since inception<sup>1</sup>



% Returns <sup>4</sup>	Portfolio	Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>
Since inception <sup>1</sup>	11.7	9.4	8.7
Latest 10 years	8.5	8.2	8.2
Latest 5 years	7.7	7.7	8.2
Latest 3 years	9.4	7.9	9.2
Latest 2 years	6.9	9.1	9.3
Latest 1 year	7.1	10.2	8.8
Latest 3 months	1.6	2.4	3.3

### Asset allocation on 30 April 2024

Asset class	Total
Net equities	19.9
Hedged equities	7.4
Property	0.8
Commodity-linked	1.9
Bonds	51.5
Money market and cash	18.6
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- Since alignment date (1 December 2001).
- Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2% p.a.
- CPI plus 3% p.a. The return for April 2024 is an estimate.
- Investment returns are annualised (unless stated otherwise), except for periods less than one year. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 April 2024.

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Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	3.0
AB InBev	2.3
MultiChoice	1.6
AngloGold Ashanti	1.6
Sappi	1.5
Standard Bank	1.3
Gold Fields	1.3
Woolworths	1.3
Nedbank	1.2
Sasol	1.1
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>16.3</b>

The optimism that greeted our local market in the latter part of 2023 has not extended into the current year. The FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX declined by 2.3% in the first quarter. The weak performance of our market, particularly when measured in US dollars, is in stark contrast to other global equity indices which have continued to post fresh all-time highs on the back of expected looser monetary policy and a continuing rally in AI-related stocks. A lacklustre commodity price environment, low economic growth and market participants keeping an eye on the upcoming national elections are all contributing to generally poor sentiment towards South African equities.

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Against this challenging backdrop for risk assets, the Portfolio's return for the first quarter was 1.1%, behind the benchmark<sup>1</sup> return of 2.5%. Fixed income and equities both contributed to performance.

At the end of this quarter, the Portfolio's allocation to cash and bonds is 71.2% of assets, with the split across instruments made with the objective of generating an acceptable overall real return (i.e. after adjusting for inflation), under a variety of possible scenarios. This comprises low-risk money market instruments

yielding 9%, higher nominal South African government bonds at more than 12% and inflation linkers at 4.5% to 6.0% real rates. In sum, this combination should provide a decent return without taking on excessive credit and interest rate risk, which is attractive relative to local inflation at 5.6%.

A net equity weight of 18.9% reflects a more cautious stance when viewed against the 40% maximum allowable allocation. We are wary of parts of the market that appear expensive and what that may entail for absolute equity returns if stark valuation discrepancies begin to unwind. We seek to exploit this potential opportunity with our allocation to hedged equities, which should provide a return profile more akin to cash plus the alpha generated via our bottom-up stockpicking process.

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**Commentary contributed by Sean Munsie**

**Fund manager quarterly  
commentary as at  
31 March 2024**

1. Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2% p.a.

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**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

The Portfolio aims to balance capital appreciation, income generation and risk of loss in a diversified global multi asset class portfolio. The benchmark is a composite consisting of 60% of the MSCI World Index (net dividends reinvested) and 40% of the J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index.

**Product profile**

- This is a feeder portfolio, investing in the Orbis SICAV Global Balanced Fund which is actively managed by Orbis.

**Investment specifics**

- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- The Base Refundable Reserve Fee is levied in the underlying Orbis SICAV Global Balanced Fund.

**MSCI data**

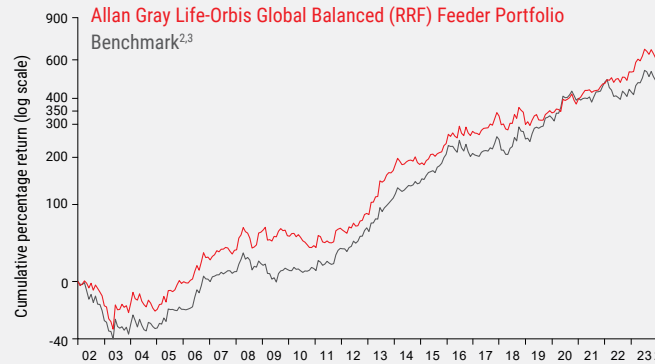
\*The blended returns are calculated by Orbis Investment Management Ltd using end-of-day index level values licensed from MSCI ("MSCI Data"). For the avoidance of doubt, MSCI is not the benchmark "administrator" for, or a "contributor", "submitter" or "supervised contributor" to, the blended returns, and the MSCI Data is not considered a "contribution" or "submission" in relation to the blended returns, as those terms may be defined in any rules, laws, regulations, legislation or international standards. MSCI Data is provided "AS IS" without warranty or liability and no copying or distribution is permitted. MSCI does not make any representation regarding the advisability of any investment or strategy and does not sponsor, promote, issue, sell or otherwise recommend or endorse any investment or strategy, including any financial products or strategies based on, tracking or otherwise utilising any MSCI Data, models, analytics or other materials or information.

**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R620m
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**Performance net of fees<sup>1</sup>**

Cumulative performance since inception



% Returns <sup>1,4</sup>	Portfolio		Benchmark <sup>2,3</sup>	
	ZAR	US\$	ZAR	US\$
Since inception	9.7	7.4	8.7	6.3
Latest 10 years	11.2	5.0	11.3	5.0
Latest 5 years	13.7	7.7	11.2	5.3
Latest 3 years	15.5	5.9	9.6	0.4
Latest 2 years	18.6	8.7	14.1	4.6
Latest 1 year	15.5	12.2	11.9	8.6
Latest 3 months	6.4	5.4	1.6	0.6

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024**

This portfolio invests solely into the Orbis SICAV Global Balanced Fund

	Total	North America	Europe and UK	Japan	Asia ex-Japan	Other
Net equities	57.8	11.6	21.2	8.3	14.7	2.1
Hedged equities	18.7	10.6	5.4	0.5	1.4	0.9
Property	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Commodity-linked	5.9	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bonds	15.4	11.3	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Money market and cash	1.6	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>

- The returns prior to 1 August 2015 are those of the Allan Gray Life Foreign Portfolio since its inception on 23 January 2002. This Portfolio invested in a mix of Orbis funds. The Investor Class Fee was levied in the underlying Orbis funds.
- 60% of the MSCI World Index (net dividends reinvested) and 40% of the J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index\*.
- The benchmark prior to 1 August 2015 was that of the Allan Gray Life Foreign Portfolio which is 60% of the MSCI All Country World Index and 40% of the J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index.
- Investment returns are annualised (unless stated otherwise), except for periods less than one year. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 April 2024.

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

**Top 10 holdings on 31 March 2024**  
(updated quarterly)

Company	% of portfolio
SPDR Gold Trust	5.6
Samsung Electronics	4.5
Kinder Morgan	3.3
Taiwan Semiconductor Mfg.	2.9
TIPS 0.25% 15 July 2029	2.6
Burford Capital	2.5
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries	2.4
Nintendo	2.3
Micron Technology	1.9
Shell	1.9
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>29.9</b>



While electric vehicles, batteries, solar panels and windmills dominate headlines around the energy transition, they are only a fraction of the whole project. Boring bits of the system may do just as much to propel the transition forward – and the companies that provide them may be much more attractive investments.

Looking at the Portfolio, 17% is invested in the stocks and bonds of companies which play at least some role in the energy transition. To sketch out how the parts of the value chain – and how some of our investee companies within it – fit together, let's start with a typical offshore wind project, the Galloper wind farm off the eastern coast of England.

The core of the project is 56 windmills built and maintained by Siemens Gamesa, a unit of Siemens Energy. Helix, which operates a fleet of undersea robots and support ships, conducted the undersea trenching and burial work for the 56 cables connecting those turbines to an offshore substation, and Prysmian, a power and telecommunication cable manufacturer, provided some of the high-voltage cables to connect the project to adjacent windfarms and then 45 kilometres back to shore.

As the world adopts broadly dispersed power farms located far away from cities, our energy system will become much more cable intensive. Cables can represent a quarter of the cost for an offshore wind project, and to support wind farms and international interconnectors, the world will need to roll out about 5 000 kilometres of subsea cables every year (outside of China, which uses its own suppliers). That is good news for Prysmian, which is the largest of only three major Western firms with the specialised factories to make those cables and the specialised ships to lay them. All that underwater work also augurs well for Helix. It turns out that the skills (and robots) that are useful for servicing offshore oil wells transfer quite well to servicing offshore wind farms.

Wind farms are not the only source of growing cable demand. Existing grids need cables too, in part because the world's electric grids are ageing. On average, grid equipment in the US and Europe is old and being operated beyond its designed lifespan. In some places, people are charging Teslas using cables installed before World War II. The US Department of Energy reckons grid infrastructure will need to be expanded by 60% by 2030. Globally, that translates into US\$650 billion of estimated grid investment every year, double the level of recent years.

A system juggling intermittent power sources, batteries, home solar panels, power-hungry artificial intelligence data centres, and electrified cars and factories will be both more burdened and more complex than the grid is today. More electricity needs to travel longer distances in more directions to more locations, and Siemens Energy and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), which both make electricity transmission and distribution equipment, are well placed to provide the increasingly sophisticated transformers, switchgear, converters and substations the new grid will require.

Intermittency (power sources that are not always on) poses challenges beyond just grid infrastructure. As systems become more reliant on wind and solar power, they need to keep the lights on when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

Drax, a UK power generator, provides reliable baseload electricity, as it can run its biomass plant 24/7. Drax also plays a role in energy storage with its elegantly simple "pumped hydro" facility in Scotland. When power is plentiful and cheap, Drax uses electrical pumps to move water uphill into a reservoir, then later lets it flow back downhill through turbines when power is scarce and better priced.

The move to a cleaner energy system is bigger than just the electric grid; it also involves industry and buildings. Siemens Energy offers a suite of products to help companies electrify their operations, while MHI focuses on helping companies switch their heat source from coal to gas, cutting carbon emissions by about 40% in the process. Beyond industry, buildings of all kinds can be much more energy-efficient than they are today. In Europe, where buildings account for 40% of total energy consumption, Signify brings a simple solution: just replace the lights. Lighting accounts for nearly half of cities' total electricity use, and replacing inefficient lights with Signify's excellent LED systems can cut the related carbon emissions by 75% or more.

The preceding sketch barely scratches the surface of the major energy transition themes, but in our view, it is an encouraging story. There are challenges and trade-offs, but these companies are applying their skills in innovative ways to move both their own businesses and the broader transition forward.

That alone wouldn't earn their stocks and bonds a place in the Portfolio, however. As investors, the key for us is the relationship between the companies' fundamental prospects and the prices of their shares and bonds. In each of these cases, we think their prospects are underappreciated by the market.

This has allowed us to build positions in these companies at attractive prices. Drax trades for less than five times earnings. Helix and Signify trade for less than 10 times free cash flow. Siemens Energy is struggling to work through quality control issues at its wind turbine unit, but in our view the long-term value of its businesses is substantially higher than its current market capitalisation. MHI has begun to attract attention for its defence business, but still trades at a lower valuation than the typical global stock – as does Prysmian, where consensus earnings estimates are just starting to reflect the growth potential we have long seen.

The energy transition features no shortage of complexity and controversy. Put those together, and it also features plenty of investment opportunity.

We reduced the Portfolio's exposure to US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) to reallocate some of the capital to Norwegian and Icelandic government bonds. In addition, we trimmed the Portfolio's position in Corpay (formerly Fleetcor Technologies) and increased the Portfolio's exposure to gold-related securities, as we continue to believe gold provides attractive diversification benefits.

**Adapted from a commentary contributed by Alec Cutler, Orbis Investment Management Limited, Bermuda**

**Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 March 2024**

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**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

This Portfolio is designed for institutional investors seeking superior absolute returns (in excess of inflation) over the long term with a higher risk tolerance in the short term than the Balanced Portfolio. The benchmark is the mean performance of the large managers as surveyed by consulting actuaries.

**Product profile**

- Actively managed pooled portfolio.
- Investments selected from all asset classes.
- Investments may include foreign funds including, but not limited to, those managed by Orbis. Orbis is our global investment management partner which shares the same founder and investment philosophy as Allan Gray.
- Fully reflects the manager’s strong investment convictions and could deviate considerably in both asset allocation and stock selection from the average retirement portfolio.

**Investment specifics**

- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- Performance based fee.
- The Base Refundable Fee Reserve is levied in the underlying Orbis funds.

**Compliance with Prudential Investment Guidelines**

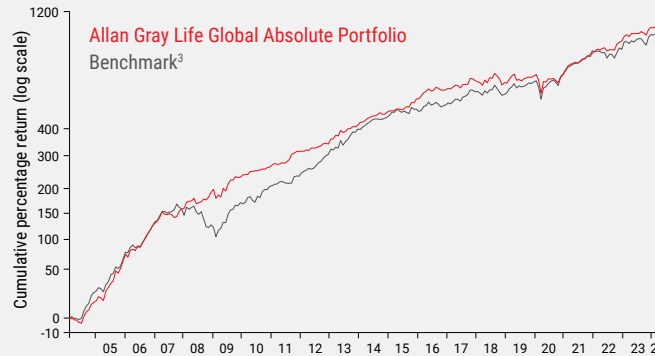
The Portfolio is managed to comply with Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act (“the Pension Funds Act”). Exposures in excess of the limits will be corrected immediately, except where due to a change in the fair value or characteristic of an asset, e.g. market value fluctuations, in which case they will be corrected within the prescribed regulatory time period. Allan Gray Life Limited does not monitor compliance with section 19(4) of the Pension Funds Act (item 6 of Table 1 to Regulation 28) on behalf of retirement funds invested in the pool.

**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R1 949m
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**Performance<sup>1</sup>**

Cumulative performance since inception<sup>2</sup>



% Returns <sup>4</sup>	Portfolio <sup>1</sup>	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>
Since inception <sup>2</sup>	12.9	12.5
Latest 10 years	8.1	7.8
Latest 5 years	8.5	8.9
Latest 3 years	11.3	9.2
Latest 2 years	10.3	8.8
Latest 1 year	7.3	7.2
Latest 3 months	2.5	2.3

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024<sup>5</sup>**

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	61.2	35.3	25.8
Hedged equities	16.1	7.8	8.3
Property	0.7	0.2	0.5
Commodity-linked	4.0	4.0	0.0
Bonds	11.9	7.6	4.3
Money market and cash <sup>6</sup>	6.1	2.6	3.5
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>42.5</b>

- Performance is gross of Allan Gray fees. Underlying Orbis fund returns are net of fees.
- Since alignment date (1 March 2004).
- Mean of Alexander Forbes Global Large Manager Watch. The return for April 2024 is an estimate.
- Investment returns are annualised (unless stated otherwise), except for periods less than one year. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 April 2024.
- Underlying holdings of foreign funds are included on a look-through basis.
- Including currency hedges.

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

**Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2024 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)<sup>5</sup>**

Company	% of portfolio
AB InBev	5.1
British American Tobacco	4.0
The Walt Disney Company	3.4
Woolworths	3.2
MultiChoice	3.2
Standard Bank	2.8
Naspers & Prosus	2.6
Booking Holdings	2.6
Glencore	2.1
Nedbank	1.8
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>30.8</b>

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index trended lower over the quarter, with several shares falling on the release of their financial results. The operating environment for local businesses is very tough. In contrast, global equities have been strong, with the MSCI World Index surpassing its previous 2022 all-time high. Much of this strength was driven by US mega-caps, but the Japanese and certain European stock markets also reached new highs. Against this backdrop, the Portfolio returned 3.3% for the quarter.

2024 could be described as the global year of elections. Based on research conducted by Deutsche Bank, 2024 will see the highest percentage of the world's population voting since 1800. Some of the regions heading to the polls include Taiwan, Europe, the United States of America, India, the United Kingdom and, of course, South Africa. In the normal course of thinking about investments, we do not pay special attention to politics – but this is not a normal election cycle; the outcomes could drastically change many policies that affect some of our underlying holdings. In our view, 2024 has above-average political risk.

The various elections are taking place against the backdrop of a world increasingly divided along both geopolitical and social lines. This is a trend we have been speaking to our clients about for a few years, and one that is making the operating environment increasingly complex for many multinational companies. Think of the partial ban of iPhones for certain public sector workers in China or the shipping attacks in the Red Sea affecting global shipping routes. While we have no unique insights on these geopolitical matters, we do think about these risks when constructing the Portfolio. For example, we have written many times about the significant exposure that the South African equity market has to China. We put limits on this exposure for these reasons.

Closer to home, we may see quite a different political and economic landscape after the South African national elections in May. No one knows what the outcome

will be with any certainty, given several potential scenarios. Clearly, not all of them are positive. We had not even heard of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MK Party) a few months ago. Rather than hedging our bets on one or two scenarios prevailing, we try to understand what is discounted in current asset prices.

This is of particular importance to the valuations of many depressed locally focused shares. The political and economic uncertainty in South Africa has pushed up the cost of capital via higher long-bond yields. When this is combined with low or non-existent real growth, the result is a low valuation placed on local profits. Of course, any positive change in yields or growth could result in an upward rerating from depressed levels. We believe that this scenario would require a return of foreign investors, first to our bond and then our equity markets. For that to happen, we need to become an attractive investment destination again. Large pools of foreign capital have many choices globally, and South Africa is small enough to ignore if the risk-reward ratio is not favourable.

With these risks and opportunities in mind, we have deliberately constructed a diversified portfolio for a wide range of outcomes. The Portfolio has exposure to offshore assets, locally listed shares that are international businesses, attractively valued domestic businesses, high-yielding cash and bonds, as well as precious metals. We believe successful asset allocation requires a holistic view of the portfolio that allows us to balance the opportunities and risks derived from our positioning.

During the quarter, the Portfolio purchased AngloGold Ashanti and reduced positions in AB InBev and Glencore.

**Commentary contributed by Duncan Artus**

**Fund manager quarterly  
commentary as at  
31 March 2024**

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Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

### FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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### MSCI Index

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## Important information for investors

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**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

This Portfolio is for institutional investors with an average risk tolerance. It aims to offer long-term returns superior to the benchmark, but at lower risk of capital loss. In terms of Allan Gray’s risk-profiled range, this Portfolio has a higher risk of capital loss than the Stable Portfolio, but less than the Absolute Portfolio. The benchmark is the mean performance of the large managers as surveyed by consulting actuaries.

**Product profile**

- Actively managed pooled portfolio.
- Investments selected from all asset classes.
- Investments may include foreign funds including, but not limited to, those managed by Orbis. Orbis is our global investment management partner which shares the same founder and investment philosophy as Allan Gray.
- Represents Allan Gray’s ‘houseview’ for a global balanced mandate.

**Investment specifics**

- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- Performance based fee.
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**Compliance with Prudential Investment Guidelines**

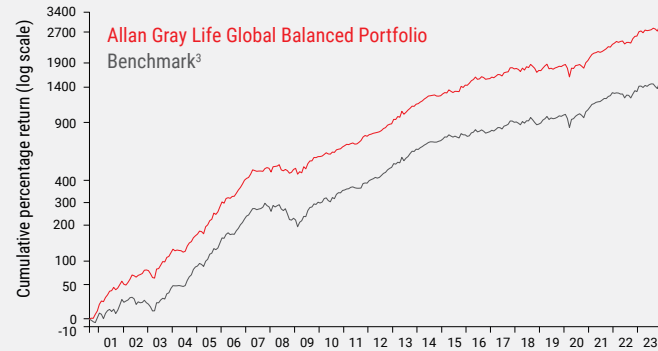
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**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R1 739m
-------------------------	---------

**Performance<sup>1</sup>**

Cumulative performance since inception<sup>2</sup>



% Returns <sup>4</sup>	Portfolio <sup>1</sup>	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>
Since inception <sup>2</sup>	15.5	12.4
Latest 10 years	9.1	7.8
Latest 5 years	9.9	8.9
Latest 3 years	11.9	9.2
Latest 2 years	11.0	8.8
Latest 1 year	8.1	7.2
Latest 3 months	2.8	2.3

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024<sup>5</sup>**

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	65.2	39.2	26.0
Hedged equities	11.6	2.0	9.6
Property	1.0	0.4	0.6
Commodity-linked	2.5	2.5	0.0
Bonds	10.7	7.6	3.1
Money market and cash <sup>6</sup>	8.9	5.8	3.2
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>42.5</b>

- Performance is gross of Allan Gray fees. Underlying Orbis fund returns are net of fees.
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**Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2024 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)<sup>5</sup>**

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	3.8
AB InBev	3.6
Naspers & Prosus	3.0
Glencore	2.4
Nedbank	1.9
Mondi	1.8
Woolworths	1.7
Standard Bank	1.7
The Walt Disney Company	1.5
Remgro	1.2
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>22.6</b>

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index trended lower over the quarter, with several shares falling on the release of their financial results. The operating environment for local businesses is very tough. In contrast, global equities have been strong, with the MSCI World Index surpassing its previous 2022 all-time high. Much of this strength was driven by US mega-caps, but the Japanese and certain European stock markets also reached new highs. Against this backdrop, the Portfolio returned 2.3% for the quarter.

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During the quarter, the Portfolio purchased Prosus and South32 and reduced positions in AB InBev and AVI.

**Commentary contributed by Duncan Artus**

**Fund manager quarterly  
commentary as at  
31 March 2024**

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### MSCI Index

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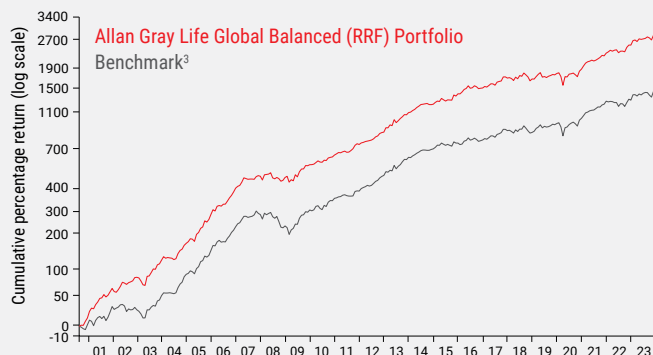
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**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R29 800m
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**Performance<sup>1,2</sup>**

Cumulative performance since inception



% Returns <sup>2,4</sup>	Portfolio <sup>1</sup>	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>
Since inception	15.5	12.4
Latest 10 years	9.2	7.8
Latest 5 years	9.9	8.9
Latest 3 years	12.0	9.2
Latest 2 years	11.2	8.8
Latest 1 year	8.4	7.2
Latest 3 months	2.6	2.3

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024<sup>5</sup>**

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	64.8	38.9	26.0
Hedged equities	11.6	1.9	9.6
Property	1.0	0.4	0.6
Commodity-linked	2.4	2.4	0.0
Bonds	10.9	7.8	3.1
Money market and cash <sup>6</sup>	9.3	6.0	3.3
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>42.5</b>

- Performance is gross of Allan Gray fees. Underlying Orbis fund returns are net of fees.
- The returns prior to 1 August 2015 are those of the Allan Gray Life Global Balanced Portfolio since its inception on 31 August 2000. The Investor Class Fee was levied in the underlying Orbis funds.
- Mean of Alexander Forbes Global Large Manager Watch. The return for April 2024 is an estimate.
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During the quarter, the Portfolio purchased Prosus and South32 and reduced positions in AB InBev and AVI.

**Adapted from a commentary contributed by Duncan Artus**

**Fund manager quarterly  
commentary as at  
31 March 2024**

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**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

This Portfolio is for risk-averse institutional investors. It aims to offer superior returns to money market investments with limited capital volatility whilst striving for capital preservation over any two-year period. In terms of Allan Gray's risk-profiled range, this Portfolio has less risk of capital loss than the Balanced Portfolio. The benchmark is the Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2% or CPI plus 3%.

**Product profile**

- Conservatively managed pooled portfolio.
- Investments selected from all asset classes.
- Investments may include foreign funds including, but not limited to, those managed by Orbis. Orbis is our global investment management partner which shares the same founder and investment philosophy as Allan Gray.
- We attempt to limit the risk of capital loss by holding shares with limited downside or attractive dividend yields and/or hedging stock market exposure.
- Modified duration of the fixed interest portfolio will be conservative.

**Investment specifics**

- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- Performance based fee or fixed fee.

**Compliance with Prudential Investment Guidelines**

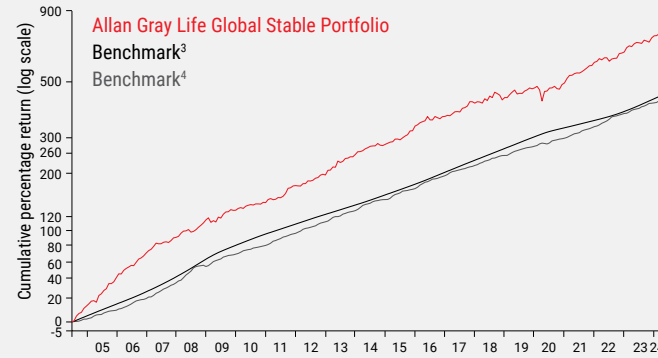
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**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R4 732m
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**Performance<sup>1</sup>**

Cumulative performance since inception<sup>2</sup>



% Returns <sup>5</sup>	Portfolio <sup>1</sup>	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>	Benchmark <sup>4</sup>
Since inception <sup>2</sup>	11.4	8.8	8.7
Latest 10 years	8.9	8.2	8.2
Latest 5 years	8.8	7.7	8.2
Latest 3 years	10.6	7.9	9.2
Latest 2 years	9.7	9.1	9.3
Latest 1 year	8.6	10.2	8.8
Latest 3 months	2.2	2.4	3.3

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024<sup>6</sup>**

Asset class	Total	South Africa	Foreign
Net equities	27.0	14.7	12.3
Hedged equities	22.0	9.0	13.0
Property	1.1	0.7	0.4
Commodity-linked	2.4	1.7	0.7
Bonds	30.8	23.6	7.2
Money market and cash <sup>7</sup>	16.7	13.2	3.5
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>37.1</b>

- Performance is gross of Allan Gray fees. Underlying Orbis fund returns are net of fees.
- Since alignment date (1 August 2004).
- Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2%.
- CPI plus 3%. The return for April 2024 is an estimate.
- Investment returns are annualised (unless stated otherwise), except for periods less than one year. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 April 2024.
- Underlying holdings of foreign funds are included on a look-through basis.
- Including currency hedges.

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

**Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2024 (SA and Foreign) (updated quarterly)<sup>6</sup>**

Company	% of portfolio
British American Tobacco	2.4
AB InBev	2.1
Woolworths	1.4
Nedbank	1.3
MultiChoice	1.2
Gold Fields	1.2
AngloGold Ashanti	1.2
Marriott International	1.1
Sappi	1.0
Glencore	1.0
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>13.8</b>

The optimism that greeted our local market in the latter part of 2023 has not extended into the current year. The FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX declined by 2.3% in the first quarter. The weak performance of our market, particularly when measured in US dollars, is in stark contrast to other global equity indices which have continued to post fresh all-time highs on the back of expected looser monetary policy and a continuing rally in AI-related stocks. A lacklustre commodity price environment, low economic growth and market participants keeping an eye on the upcoming national elections are all contributing to generally poor sentiment towards South African equities.

In comparison, global bonds have struggled to gain traction with investors becoming increasingly cautious on the quantum of interest rate cuts anticipated over the next year. US growth prospects remain strong and global inflation remains higher than targeted levels, particularly in the more labour-intensive services economy. The FTSE World Government Bond Index returned -2.4%, while the local FTSE/JSE All Bond Index posted a 4.1% decline in US dollars (-1.8% in rands) over the quarter.

Against this challenging backdrop for risk assets, the Portfolio's return for the first quarter was 2.7%, marginally ahead of the benchmark<sup>1</sup> return of 2.5%. The Portfolio's foreign assets were the main contributor to performance, while the hedged equity portion and bonds also added to returns.

At the end of this quarter, the Portfolio's allocation to local cash and bonds is 38.3% of assets, with the split across instruments made with the objective of generating an acceptable overall real return (i.e. after adjusting for inflation), under a variety of possible scenarios. This comprises low-risk money market instruments yielding 9%, higher nominal South African government bonds

at more than 12% and inflation linkers at 4.5% to 6.0% real rates. In sum, this combination should provide a decent return without taking on excessive credit and interest rate risk, which is attractive relative to local inflation at 5.6%. In addition to local fixed income, the Portfolio holds offshore US dollar-denominated low-duration bonds at yields of 5% and higher.

A net equity weight of 25.8%, split evenly across local and foreign stocks, reflects a more cautious stance when viewed against the 40% maximum allowable allocation. We are wary of parts of the market that appear expensive (such as US mega-cap technology shares) and what that may entail for absolute equity returns if stark valuation discrepancies begin to unwind. We seek to exploit this potential opportunity with our allocation to hedged equities, which should provide a return profile more akin to cash plus the alpha generated via our bottom-up stockpicking process.

It is worth reiterating the Portfolio's dual objective of providing long-term returns ahead of cash together with offering a high degree of capital stability. Current high cash rates do present a steep performance hurdle. It is important that the appropriate balance is struck between the risk and return required in meeting and surpassing this hurdle, especially in an environment of uncertainty both locally and offshore.

This quarter, the Portfolio added to positions in gold miners, including Pan African Resources and AngloGold Ashanti. We trimmed the Portfolio's exposure to Standard Bank and Nedbank.

**Adapted from a commentary contributed by Sean Munsie**

**Fund manager quarterly  
commentary as at  
31 March 2024**

1. Alexander Forbes 3-month Deposit Index plus 2% p.a.

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### FTSE/JSE All Share Index, FTSE/JSE Capped Shareholder Weighted All Share Index and FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

The objective of the Portfolio is to outperform the FTSE World Index at no greater-than-average risk of loss in its sector. The benchmark is the FTSE World Index, including income.

**Product profile**

- This is a feeder portfolio, investing in the Orbis Global Equity Fund which is actively managed by Orbis.

**Investment specifics**

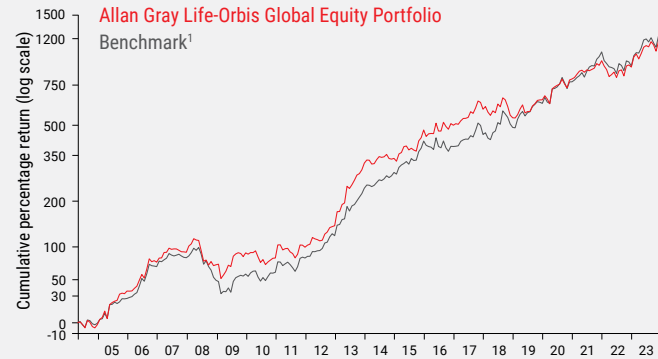
- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- The Investor Class Fee is levied in the underlying Orbis Global Equity Fund.

**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R225m
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**Performance net of fees**

Cumulative performance since inception



- FTSE World Index, including income.
- Investment returns are annualised (unless stated otherwise), except for periods less than one year. Performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 30 April 2024.

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

% Returns <sup>2</sup>	Portfolio		Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	
	ZAR	US\$	ZAR	US\$
Since inception	14.3	8.6	14.5	8.8
Latest 10 years	13.0	6.6	15.6	9.1
Latest 5 years	14.7	8.6	16.9	10.7
Latest 3 years	13.1	3.6	15.2	5.7
Latest 2 years	22.6	12.4	20.8	10.7
Latest 1 year	24.1	20.5	22.1	18.6
Latest 3 months	7.6	6.6	4.7	3.7

**Top 10 share holdings on 31 March 2024 (updated quarterly)**

Company	% of portfolio
Corpay (was FLEETCOR)	5.5
UnitedHealth Group	3.6
Interactive Brokers Group	3.5
Global Payments	3.3
GXO Logistics	3.2
Sumitomo Mitsui Fin.	3.1
Alphabet	3.1
British American Tobacco	2.9
Shell	2.8
BAE Systems	2.8
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>33.7</b>

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024**

This portfolio invests solely into the Orbis Global Equity Fund

	Total	North America	Europe and UK	Japan	Asia ex-Japan	Other
Net equities	98.0	50.6	23.1	7.7	15.6	1.0
Money market and cash	2.0	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>

While the US stock market represents about 70% of the FTSE World and MSCI World indices, just half of the Portfolio is invested in American shares. But the US is also a big place with many excellent companies and, where we can find great companies at good prices, we are delighted to own them. Two businesses that fit that description are the managed care organisations (MCOs) UnitedHealth Group and Elevance Health.

MCOs serve the vast US healthcare market, which is more complex than many healthcare markets elsewhere. In the US, most working people get health insurance through their employer or through the government-funded Medicaid (need-based) or Medicare (age-based) schemes. Both Medicare and Medicaid plans can be administered by the MCOs. But the MCOs are not just insurers, they increasingly own and manage physician practices, care centres and pharmacies, making them better placed to connect the dots for patients across this complex system.

For new entrants, that complexity has made the healthcare market a tough nut to crack: Amazon, JP Morgan and Berkshire Hathaway announced to great fanfare that they were entering the health insurance market in 2018, only to abandon the venture three years later.

With this industry setup, the MCOs benefit from two long-term tailwinds: an ageing population and increased outsourcing of Medicare and Medicaid administration. This has been a winning formula historically, with UnitedHealth and Elevance growing earnings per share by 15-17% per annum over the last 10 years. Indeed, we find the two companies rather special investment opportunities when comparing their moats, growth runways, returns on capital, historical track records and management quality with how the stocks are priced by the market.

Today, those prices look reasonable due to pessimism we see as excessive. Market concerns focus on two main things: political risk and cost pressure from Medicare Advantage plans.

Political risk is a persistent worry for the companies. Plenty of countries have socialised healthcare, and the possibility of the US moving in the same direction has often been seen as a risk for the MCOs. Leaning against that pessimism enabled us to build our first positions in the companies when President Obama was initially elected. We continue to believe that MCO-destroying political changes are extremely unlikely. Republicans have no interest in socialising healthcare, and Democrats would need control of the presidency, House of Representatives and 60% control of the Senate to push through such a major societal change – even if they had a unified view internally on the best approach, which they do not. Neither Donald Trump nor Joe Biden is focused on healthcare in their campaigns ahead of the upcoming election.

Moreover, while the US infamously spends more than other countries on healthcare, that is not because of the MCOs, but because healthcare professionals, drugs, medical devices and facilities cost much more. That level of care is great for patients, but it comes with costs.

The MCOs' role is to make the system more efficient – as evidenced by the government, states and individuals increasingly choosing MCO-administered plans for Medicare and Medicaid. In 2008, a fifth of people with Medicare and Medicaid used plans administered by MCOs. Today, the companies manage half of Medicare enrolment and more than half of Medicaid enrolment.

Cost pressures on MCO-managed Medicare plans, called Medicare Advantage, have become a concern for investors. Last year, Humana, a competitor of UnitedHealth and Elevance, saw a sharp uptick in medical costs for its Medicare Advantage business. The cost increases were far in excess of how Humana had priced its policies, severely hurting its margins. Investors worried that UnitedHealth and Elevance would suffer similar problems, hurting the companies' share prices.

We think those worries are excessive. Humana offered lower prices than UnitedHealth and Elevance in 2023, and that now looks like an underwriting mistake. We don't expect the MCOs we are holding in the Portfolio to see pressure to the same extent as Humana. Further, the MCOs reprice their policies annually, so if any weakness does materialise, it should prove short-lived.

We remain confident that the companies can continue to deliver as they have in the past. Healthcare spending should continue to grow a little faster than the US economy, and the companies should continue to grow moderately faster than wider US healthcare spending as more people adopt MCO-administered Medicare and Medicaid plans. Meanwhile, we see Elevance and especially UnitedHealth taking intelligent risks in building out their own care networks, positioning them to drive better efficiency and outcomes across the system – and to be rewarded for it. Stacking those up, we believe the companies can grow earnings per share by 12-15% per annum for years to come.

In the short term, the path might look less smooth. Healthcare reform could rise to the top of the election news cycle, and weakness in Medicare Advantage plans could depress sentiment. But as long-term investors, we think those risks are reflected in the companies' prices. UnitedHealth normally trades at a similar price-to-earnings multiple to the S&P 500. It now trades at a discount. Elevance, which has somewhat lower returns on capital than UnitedHealth, trades at an unusually large discount to the US market. In both cases, that is despite long-term growth prospects that we believe are above average.

We trimmed the Portfolio's positions in Constellation Energy, a nuclear power producer, and Japanese banks Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group into relative share price strength. We added to the Portfolio's position in Google's parent company, Alphabet, and established new positions in Samsung Electronics and Diageo, a leading spirits manufacturer.

**Adapted from a commentary contributed by Povilas Dapkevicius and Matteo Sbalzarini, Orbis Portfolio Management (Europe) LLP, London**

**Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 March 2024**



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**Portfolio objective and benchmark**

The objective of the Portfolio is to outperform the MSCI World Index at no greater-than-average risk of loss in its sector. The benchmark is the MSCI World Index, with net dividends reinvested.

**Product profile**

- This is a feeder portfolio, investing in the Orbis Institutional Global Equity Fund which is actively managed by Orbis.

**Investment specifics**

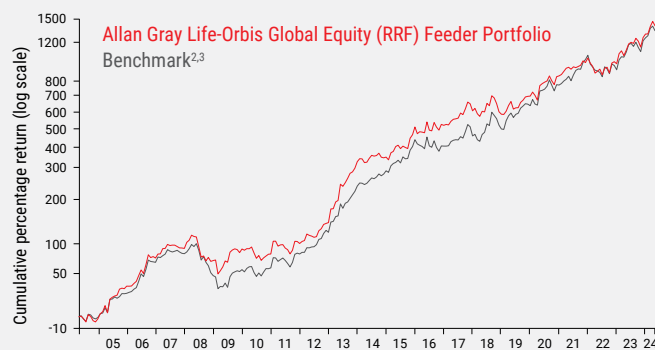
- This Portfolio is available as a linked policy issued by Allan Gray Life Limited available only to retirement funds.
- Minimum investment: R20m.
- The Base Refundable Reserve Fee is levied in the underlying Orbis Institutional Global Equity Fund.

**Portfolio information on 30 April 2024**

Assets under management	R936m
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**Performance net of fees<sup>1</sup>**

Cumulative performance since inception



% Returns <sup>1,4</sup>	Portfolio		Benchmark <sup>2,3</sup>	
	ZAR	US\$	ZAR	US\$
Since inception	14.6	8.9	14.4	8.7
Latest 10 years	13.6	7.2	15.3	8.8
Latest 5 years	15.2	9.1	16.6	10.4
Latest 3 years	13.8	4.3	15.2	5.6
Latest 2 years	23.6	13.3	20.6	10.5
Latest 1 year	25.4	21.9	21.9	18.4
Latest 3 months	7.7	6.7	4.6	3.6

**Asset allocation on 30 April 2024**

This portfolio invests solely into the Orbis Institutional Global Equity Fund

	Total	North America	Europe and UK	Japan	Asia ex-Japan	Other
Net equities	97.1	50.0	23.3	7.8	15.0	1.0
Money market and cash	2.9	2.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>

- The returns prior to 1 April 2015 are those of the Allan Gray Life-Orbis Global Equity Portfolio since its inception on 18 May 2004. The Investor Class Fee was levied in the underlying Orbis Global Equity Fund.
- The benchmark prior to 1 April 2015 was that of the Allan Gray Life-Orbis Global Equity Portfolio which was the FTSE World Index, including income.
- MSCI World Index, with net dividends reinvested.
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Company	% of portfolio
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Global Payments	3.4
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GXO Logistics	3.1
Alphabet	3.0
British American Tobacco	2.9
BAE Systems	2.8
Shell	2.7
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>33.7</b>

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Adapted from a commentary contributed by Povilas Dapkevicius and Matteo Sbalzarini, Orbis Portfolio Management (Europe) LLP, London

**Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 31 March 2024**

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